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Message Text

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45
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 DOTE-00 IGA-02 TRSE-00

OMB-01 XMB-07 EA-11 EUR-25 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01

/143 W
---------- 110508
P R 011545Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9169
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 1377
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: LILONGWE-MCHINJI ROAD

AF/E FOR AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI
PASS AID
NARIROBI FOR REDSO
REF: A) STATE 148734, B) NAIROBI 4973, C)BLANTYRE 1107

1. WE SHARE BLANTYRE CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS REFTELS RE LILONGWE-MCHINJI ROAD. WE NOT PRIVY TO DETAILS OTHER THAN THOSE PROVIDED IN REFTELS AND THERE FORE NOT IN POSITION COMMENT KNOWLEDGEABLY ON ROAD ALIGNMENT OR ADVISABILITY OF FURTHER STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS AND EFFECTS OF RAILROAD EXTENSION TO LILONGWE. IT OBVIOUSLY DESIRABLE, HOWEVER, AVOID FURTHER DELAYS. IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. APPARENT INCLINATION TO DOWNGRADE ROAD (PARA 3, REF B) DOES NOT SEEM JUSTIFIABLE FROM VANTAGE POINT OF ZAMBIA AND IT OUT OF LINE WITH IMPORTANCE EARLIER ATTACHED TO ROAD IN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZAMBIA PROGRAM LOAN (STATE 126112).

2. POLITICAL JUSTIFICATIONS FOR ROAD QUITE CLEAR, AS BLANTYRE
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POINTS OUT (PARA 5, REF C) AND NEEDS NO FURTHER ELABORATION. IN

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OUR VIEW, ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION EQUALLY EVIDENT AND SUFFICIENT WITHOUT POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. EVEN WHEN TAN-ZAM RAILROAD IN OPERATION AND EVEN IF DAR PORT CARGO HANDLING PROBLEMS RESOLVED AND LOBITO REMAINS THE HIGH USEFUL OUTLET IT PRESENTLY APPEARS TO BE, THERE LITTLE DOUBT ZAMBIA WILL CONTINUE MAKE IMPORTANT USE OF MALAWI ROUTE DESPITE EXTRA COSTS INVOLVED. ZAMBIANS LONG AND UNDERSTANDABLY WEDDED TO PROPOSTION THEY MUST MAINTAIN ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO SEA AND PRESENT EXPERIENCE WITH RHODESIAN BORDER CLOSURE HAS SERVED TO CONFIRM THEM IN THAT CONVICTION.

3. ROAD WILL TAKE ON STILL MORE SIGNIFICANCE AS AGRICULTURE AND SMALL INDUSTRY DEVELOPED IN EASTERN PROVINCE WHER GRZ INAUGURATING FIRST "INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT ZONE". TO BE ANTICIPATED AS WELL ARE EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL DEPOSITS IN LUANGWA AREA (PARA2, BLANTYRE 622) AND GROTH OF TOUIST TRAFFIC. MALAWI IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR RECREATION ATTRACTION FOR ZAMBIANS AND LARGE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY HERE, AND ZAMBIA'S LUANGWA VALLEY GAME PARK, WHOSE FACILITIES ARE BEING EXPANDED AND UPGRADED, IS READELILY ACCESSABLE ATTRACTION FOR TOURISTS FROM MALAWI.

4. WHOLEHEARTEDLY CONCUR IN BLANTYRE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR AN IMMEDIATE STATE/AID IN-HOUSE STUDY OF ALL RPT ALL FACTORS. (PARA 6, REF C).NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LUSAKA01377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730865/aaaabvsv.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 A) STATE 148734, B) NAIROBI 4973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAID
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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